

Blackfriars

The author has purposed to set St. Thomas and his doctrine in their proper historical setting. He has succeeded in a striking fashion, to this extent, indeed, that his book is not so much a useful guide as almost a necessity to those who desire sincerely to assimilate the thought of the great Doctor who is surely, if slowly, regaining his sovereignty over the philosophical and theological thought of our times.

H.J.C.

VIVRE LA TRINITE ET JESUS, OU LA THEOLOGIE VECUE. Le Père A. Philippe, C.S.S.R. Imprimerie-Librairie Saint-Alphonse, Esschen (Belgique).

It is with the fundamental principles of theology, of divine truth and, therefore, of our divine life, that Père Philippe deals. The Blessed Trinity, Jesus Christ crucified, are the great themes of the book. In Jesus Christ we grow in grace, and in union with the Trinity (would not *Vivre Jésus et la Trinité* be a better title?). The most sublime doctrines of theology are set down in clear, simple language, and with an accuracy not often to be met with in religious writings intended for general use; though here and there the text might be changed to advantage—for example, when speaking of the universal character of Christ's sufferings (pp. 109 *et seq.*), of His words 'My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me' (p. 112), of what sacrifice is (p. 110; Supplement, p. 2). Christ could not suffer the principal pain of hell, the pain of loss (*cf.* p. 111). But these shortcomings are slight in comparison with the sterling qualities of the book—the soundness of its principles, its trend of thought, the standpoint from which everything is viewed. Life lived in union with Jesus, imitating His virtues, guided by His Spirit acting through 'the gifts'—such is the doctrine preached. Prayer, Mass, Holy Communion, our Blessed Lady, Confession—all are treated of in a most helpful way. There is an admirable chapter on trusting in God. 'Walk before me, and be perfect,' said God to Abraham; 'live with God, Who dwells within you,' is the same golden counsel given in these pages. No life, however busy, need be without this divine companionship. Charity is friendship with God, and the chiefest mark of friendship is to live together as much as possible. Père Philippe shows how this 'living together' should be achieved.

This book is being translated into English by the Benedictine Nuns of St. Mary's Abbey, East Bergholt, Suffolk.

A.M.B.